EXHIBIT 6
DATE 3.22.07
SB 100

Private Land/Public Wildlife Advisory Council

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March 21, 2007

TO: Members, House Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Committee

RE: Senate Bill 100

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record my name is Connie Eissinger, Chair of the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council, and I'm representing the Council's position with this testimony.

The Council would like to register support of Senate Bill 100. This bill would increase the penalties for providing outfitting services without a license, and clarify the definition of what constitutes legal outfitting. Passage of this bill can help those outfitters who are legally conducting business in the state of Montana. It will also help prevent the illegal taking of Montana's wildlife resources by people who either act as illegal outfitters or who hire the services of people they know are not legal outfitters. Members of the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council recognize that licensed outfitters provide a valuable service to people seeking to enjoy Montana's wildlife resources. At the same time, Council members recognize the extent to which illegal outfitting activities are destroying Montana's wildlife resources, hurting licensed outfitters who legally conduct business, and fracturing the delicate balance between landowners, hunters, and outfitters that serves as the foundation of Montana's hunting heritage and traditions. As you know, membership of the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council includes hunters, anglers, landowners, outfitters, legislators, and a Fish, Wildlife, & Parks commissioner, who work through consensus to develop recommendations. The Council adopted a position of unanimous support for legislation to address this very important issue. On behalf of the Council, I ask that you vote for passage of Senate Bill 100.

Sincerely,

Connie Eissinger

Connie Eissinger, Chair

C/O Field Services Division
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